

Nicaragua: Innovations in education study tour

15–25 August 2010



University students train to be literacy facilitators Photo: Jenny Matthews

'...for people in Waspmam on the Honduran border, literacy means the opportunity to take more control of their lives, participate in decision making, write letters, run their own small businesses, and improve things for themselves, their children and their communities. Their vision of a better future is what motivates them, that and their realization of the long-denied right to education.'

Ruby Cox, NSC chair

Education for all

In Nicaragua, the second poorest country in the Americas, raising educational levels is key to overcoming profound poverty, the result of a dependent, vulnerable economy based on raw materials and cheap labour. National and local government, trade

unions, social movements and NGOs are developing innovative community initiatives, making Nicaragua an exciting microcosm of alternative education to ensure the basic human right of education is accessible to all.

What's the purpose of the study tour?

- To provide an opportunity for those in the UK with an interest in education to exchange ideas and information on innovations in formal and informal education
- To participate in the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the famous 1980s Sandinista Literacy Crusade and the culmination of the current literacy campaign

'...you will see how people live and work in terrible conditions and how they are fighting to improve their situation. It will open your eyes and it will inspire you.'

Matthew Egan, UNISON

The programme will enable you to:

- Celebrate the 30th anniversary of the UNESCO acclaimed literacy crusade that reduced illiteracy from 52% to 12%
- Participate in the culmination of the Sandinista government four year literacy campaign and the UNESCO 2009 declaration of Nicaragua as a country free of illiteracy
- Learn about the Cuba-developed "Yo Sí Puedo" (Yes, I can) literacy methodology with educators involved in the literacy campaign
- Meet national and local figures from the Ministry of Education, the Popular Education Association Carlos Fonseca Amador, and the Street Workers Union Federation
- Observe classes for adults in marginalised urban and rural communities and trade union learning centres to talk to students and popular educators
- Witness what difference international support makes through visiting British solidarity funded projects to improve access and quality of education: an after-school programme in León, a Leicester funded programme in Masaya to teach children food production for self-consumption and the use of natural resources to produce clean energy, and an English teaching programme for young tourist guides in one of the most beautiful forest reserves in northern Nicaragua
- Meet the Forum for Education and Human Development, a national network of NGOs, local education centres, and universities ensuring community participation in building an education system appropriate to local needs

The programme can be varied according to the interests of the group.

How much will it cost?

Ground and organisational costs: £625 including UK/Nicaragua preparation and all costs in Nicaragua (£50 single room supplement). Flights (approx. £700), airport taxes and insurance are additional. **It is advisable to book as early as possible.**

Further information

NSC, campaigns@nicaraguasc.org.uk, Tel: 020 7561 4836
<http://www.nicaraguasc.org.uk>

**Nicaragua
Solidarity
Campaign**